

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 47.

Claims 1-47 (Cancelled)

48. (New). A functional element attachable to sheet metal material in a liquid and gas-tight manner comprising: an undercut defining a thread with at least one thread turn having features interrupting said thread and said sheet metal material deformable radially inwardly of said thread thereby forming said liquid and gas-tight attachment between said functional element and said sheet metal material.

49. (New) A functional element as set forth in claim 48, wherein said thread is disposed upon a pin defined by said functional element.

50. (New) A functional element as set forth in claim 49, wherein said pin defines a generally constant outer diameter.

51. (New) A functional element as set forth in claim 48, wherein said features define a groove disposed crosswise through said thread thereby providing anti-rotational properties to said undercut.

52. (New) A functional element as set forth in claim 48, wherein said features define a rib disposed crosswise through said thread thereby providing anti-rotational properties to said undercut.

53. (New) A functional element attachable to sheet metal material and comprising an undercut defined by a thread, said sheet metal material being deformed in use radially inwardly of said thread thereby forming said attachment between said functional element being a threaded pin having a substantially constant outer diameter and being adapted for connection to said sheet metal material in the region of a portion of said thread defining said undercut, said functional element having features at said portion providing security against rotation and arranged eccentrically relative to a longitudinal axis of said functional element, said features providing security against rotation being at least one of recesses and raised portions engaging said sheet metal material and interrupting said thread.